

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of modifying a lock associated with a resource in a distributed environment, wherein the lock has a lock owner, the method comprising:
 - receiving a request to modify the lock, wherein the request originates from a requesting client computer system;
 - analyzing the request to determine whether the request is made by the lock owner; and
 - if the request is made by the lock owner, modifying at least one property associated with the lock.
2. (Original) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises:
 - following the determination of whether the request is made by the lock owner,
 - determining whether the resource is locked by another client computer system that may conflict with the requested modification; and
 - if the resource is locked by a conflicting lock, denying the received request.
3. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the request relates to modifying the lock type.
4. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the request relates to the modification of the lock scope.

5. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the request relates to the modification of the lock ownership.

6. (Original) A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 1.

7. (Original) A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 5.

8. (Original) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a locked resource, wherein the locked resource comprises:

a resource object data section for storing actual object data;

a lock object, wherein the lock object comprises a plurality of properties, wherein a first property identifies a lock owner, and wherein the properties may be modified by the lock owner.

9. (Original) A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 8 wherein a second property relates the resource object and wherein the second property may be modified by the lock owner to associate the lock object with a second resource object.

10. (Original) A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 8 wherein the lock owner may modify the first property relating to lock ownership to transfer the lock object to a second owner.

11. (Original) A system for modifying a lock object in a distributed environment, the distributed environment having a plurality of resources and wherein at least one resource is associated with the lock object, the system comprising:

a receive module for receiving a resource request from a requesting process, wherein the request includes modification information;

a determination module for determining whether the requesting process owns the lock object associated with the resource; and

an update module for modifying the lock object upon a determination that the requesting process owns the lock object.

12. (Original) A system as defined in claim 11 wherein the determination module also determines whether there is a conflicting lock associated with the requested resource and wherein the update module does not modify the lock object upon a determination that a conflicting lock exists.

13. (Original) A system as defined in claim 12 wherein the lock object has a lock type property, and wherein the update module modifies the lock type property.

14. (Original) A system as defined in claim 12 wherein the lock object has a lock scope property, and wherein the update module modifies the lock scope property.

15. (Original) A system as defined in claim 12 wherein the lock object has a lock ownership property, and wherein the update module modifies the lock ownership property to thereby transfer the lock object from one process to another.
16. (Original) A system as defined in claim 11 further comprising a transfer module for transferring ownership of the lock object from the requesting process to another process.
17. (Original) A system as defined in claim 11 wherein the requesting process communicates with receive module using Web Distributed Authoring and Versioning protocol.